

The Centre Reporter.

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THE CENTRE REPORTER

FRED KURTZ, -- EDITOR

The latest authentic intelligence from the peach county is to the effect that the crop hasn't been ruined after all.

Blairville is called a prohibition town, yet it is stated that on an average eighty kegs of Pittsburg beer are shipped there every Saturday.

Mrs. Margaret Connelly, of Beaver Meadows, Pa., aged 110, smoked her pipe in bed, set fire to the bed clothes, and died. Tobacco is a great abbreviator of life.

The Road bill is still in the hands of the Governor. Protests against its becoming a law have poured into the Executive Department from all parts of the State.

There are threatenings of a great convulsion among the political leaders of the democratic party because of the treachery of one of their county officials. *Daily News*, May 11.

Well, what's up now?

According to a correspondent of the *Pittsburg Dispatch* an overwhelming majority of the republican members of the Pennsylvania legislature are for Mr. Blaine for president. The democrats are just as unanimous for Mr. Cleveland.

One hundred members of the British parliament are stricken with the grip. If the Penn'a legislature does not do some legislating that will relieve the tax payers of our state, the people of the commonwealth will give some of them a grip, which is as bad as the grip.

The Massachusetts House of Representatives has passed, to be engrossed, the bill limiting to 125 feet the height of buildings in cities. This is a wrong move in a religious sense, as some men never get nearer heaven than the top of their houses.

General D. H. Hastings contemplates taking a trip abroad in the near future, as the papers say. Don't go, General, for when you return you may find some fellow has run away with your gubernatorial boom. Remember Cambria county.

The appeal of the Italian Government to other European Governments to unite in demanding from the United States protection for resident aliens is laughed at in Berlin, in view of the great increase of Italian emigration to America. It is believed that Germany will refuse to take any part in any such a demand.

In New York there is a new wrinkle just now, a boycott to stop a boycott.

To utterly break the backbone of the Lumber Handlers' Union boycott upon the lumber yard of Charles L. Bucki & Company, which sought to shut out all non-union labor, the New York Lumber Trades Association yesterday decided to cut off all the supply of lumber for new buildings in this city until the boycott shall be lifted. This action will tie up 100,000 New York workmen.

The Prince of Wales' debts are to be paid by his august mother, so that when he succeeds her as the ruler of Great Britain he will not come to the throne a bankrupt. It will take \$300,000 to "square up" with his creditors. The royal lady has agreed to devote that sum to the purpose named, but with the curious proviso that the Prince shall not handle a penny of the money. What a queer feeling the money making, money loving thoroughly businesslike Britons will have when a monarch ascends their throne whose own mother would not trust him with the money to pay his debts!

The *Altoona Tribune*, a Republican organ, in its issue of Monday last, makes this frank statement: The amendments to the Baker ballot reform bill by the senate committee practically destroy the bill and if it should be adopted in the shape arranged by the senate committee it would not be ballot reform, whatever else it may be. The republican members of the legislature must now determine whether the solemn pledge of the party to the people shall be redeemed, or whether it shall be broken to gratify a few Philadelphia politicians. If ballot reform be defeated by the legislature, or if a fraudulent measure be adopted the republican party will be handicapped, and it will be useless to expect self-respecting newspapers to enter the coming campaign with any enthusiasm. If the legislature means to defy the people at the bidding of a handful of scoundrelly politicians, who are republicans for revenue only, then something unpleasant is going to happen.

A Big Political Deal.

The latest political development in this state, states the *Philadelphia Herald* is a "combine" which aims to control the spoils of party for years to come. According to the rumors it embraces Senator Quay, General Hastings, C. L. Magee and others, and has for its purpose the selection of candidates for a period of six years including the present and the retention of Senator Quay as chairman of the national committee, his re-election to the United States senate and his advancement to a seat in the cabinet of the next president.

This is a very comprehensive programme, but the gentlemen concerned are wholesale dealers in political puts and calls, and there is nothing too big for them. It is tolerably well known moreover that some of them are more or less embarrassed in their political estates and under such circumstances it is reasonable to assume that a political Louisiana lottery or party "Earnest Workers association" would be attractive to them. At any rate the combination as it is reported includes the desperate as well as the shrewd politicians of the Republican party.

According to the rumors, Messrs. Mylin of Lancaster, and Thompson, or Warren, are to be nominated for auditor general and state treasurer respectively this year. That far the statement may be accepted as true. Then it is said that Gen. Hastings will be nominated for governor in 1894, and Quay, having been re-elected senator in 1893, will be promoted to a seat in the cabinet a month or two later, when Mr. Magee will succeed him. This is a very interesting programme, and it is to be hoped that an attempt will be made to carry it out.

Boyer's Tax Bill

State Treasurer Boyer had frequent consultations with Senator Quay during his stay in Harrisburg, and it is now stated upon excellent authority that the Boyer tax bill will be substituted for the granger tax bill now in the senate committee on finance. The general provisions of the Boyer bill are pretty well understood, and it will be amended to make it generally acceptable to all classes of taxpayers. The changes as proposed will make the rate of taxation on capital stock of corporations five mills instead of four, as proposed in the original Boyer bill, being two mills of an increase over the present rate. It is also proposed to make the rate on personal property other than capital stock four mills, instead of three as at present.

With these amendments it is stated that the present revenue of the Commonwealth will be increased about \$4,500,000, which amount would be diverted to the schools and roads, thus relieving the burden of taxation throughout the State.

The battle of the *Philad. Press* in favor of ballot reform, in the face of the opposition to the measure by its party leaders, is commendable, to say the least. The *Press* admits that the Republican legislature at Harrisburg is attempting to defeat the Baker ballot reform bill, in spite of the platform of its party and the clamor of the people in favor of the Baker bill, and warns its party of the breakers ahead, if there is any dodge about it. Says the *Press*:

Those Republican members of the Legislature who are responsible for the present shape of the ballot reform bill, and particularly that provision which is intended to kill independence in politics, will find they have manufactured a club whose heaviest blows will fall upon themselves. It is the independent vote that deals out future defeat to those public servants who prove recreant to the trusts reposed in them.

The United States Supreme Court affirmed the judgment of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in the case of the Pullman Palace Car Company against the State, involving the validity and constitutionality of the State law taxing the company on a basis proportionate to the total number of miles of railroad within the State over which the company cars ran compared with the total number of miles of railroad in the United States over which the cars ran.

The Court, in an opinion by Justice Gray, holds that the law is valid and constitutional and not in violation of the inter-State commerce clause of the Federal Constitution. The Court holds that the law is not a regulation of commerce, but an equitable method of taxing the property of the company within the State. It holds that it is a tax not on business, but on property which may be found within the State.

The Road Bill Vetoed.

Gov. Pattison has vetoed the road bill as we are informed by a telegram from representative McCormick, viz: Harrisburg, May 13.—Fred. Kurtz, Gov. Pattison vetoed the road bill today. J. W. McCormick.

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THE NEW ROAD LAW.

The Bill as it Has Been Presented to the Governor.

The new road bill is now in the hands of Governor Pattison for signature having passed both Houses. The following is a synopsis of the bill's provisions:

Section 1 enacts that each Twp. shall elect on the third Tuesday of February, 1892, one supervisor for one year, one for two years and one for three years. One supervisor shall be elected annually thereafter for a term of three years. Vacancies are to be filled by the Court of Quarter Sessions, and only qualified electors of a township are eligible to election in that township. New elections are not to be held in townships not having three supervisors.

Section 2 specifies that they are to take an oath of office and are to elect one of their number president and one secretary. In townships which do not have a treasurer they are to appoint one not of their number. They are then to levy a road tax not to exceed 10 mills on the dollar of valuation except by order of Court. The valuation is to be the same as that used for county purposes and is to be furnished by the county Commissioners. Supervisors may divide their precincts into districts and appoint roadmasters for each. Roadmasters are to see that work is done in accordance with specifications furnished by supervisors, to oversee the men employed on the roads and to keep their time. Supervisors are to fix wages and hours of labor.

Section 3 gives supervisors control of work and employment of laborers. Resident taxpayers are to receive the preference as laborers if they notify supervisors before the first Monday of May each year. Supervisors are to purchase machinery and materials and take care of same.

Section 4 authorizes supervisors of two or more townships to make joint purchases of road machinery, joint ownership to continue during the pleasure of supervisors and property to be sold under the direction of the Courts when they agree to sever it.

Section 5 requires the road supervisors to make out tax duplicates and deliver them to township treasurers for collection. The usual five per cent. discount is allowed for payment before June 1st, and five per cent. penalty imposed for delinquency beyond Oct. 1.

Section 6 directs the township treasurer to give bond with two sureties.

Section 8 fixes compensation of supervisors at \$30 per year.

Section 9 requires supervisors to make reports to county commissioners, of moneys raised by taxation and amounts expended in different ways upon the roads. The commissioners are to forward the report to the secretary of internal affairs and they are to be made and forwarded before the first Monday of April each year.

Section 10 directs supervisors to keep minutes and accounts and deliver them to their successors. They are to be open to the inspection of the taxpayers.

Section 11 vests discretion in supervisors in the matter of letting contracts for highway roads, and bridges. Lettings are to be advertised three weeks in advance.

Section 12 makes it the duty of the supervisors to select one of the roads to be macadamized which forms a continuous highway with roads of other townships throughout the county, between populous points on railroads. These are to be known as highways, and the supervisors are to keep maps of them showing their relative relation to other roads. Records of the material out of which they are constructed are to be kept and also alignments and grades of the highways. Surveyors when employed are not to be paid in excess of \$3 a day.

Section 13 requires the petition of ten taxpayers for the appointment of viewers. Owners of land, railroads or canals to be crossed by new roads are to be given written notice of the proposed view. Hand-bills of the same are required to be posted ten days in advance.

Section 14 directs the courts to appoint three viewers on petition, to lay out or vacate roads. The viewers must be a surveyor and two disinterested citizens.

Section 15 appoints the supervisors inspectors of work done by contractors. It is not to be accepted nor money due upon it be paid until it is completed according to agreement.

Section 17 directs the distribution of money appropriated by the Legislature for road purposes among the township in proportion to the amount of road tax they have collected and expended during the distribution. The State Treasurer is to pay each township or district treasurer. Twenty-five per cent. of the tax collected and the entire State appropriations are directed to be set apart for permanent road making.

Section 18 denies the State appropriation to any township willfully neglecting or refusing to carry out the foregoing provisions.

Section 20 makes it unlawful for supervisors to be interested in work or contracts on roads, highways or bridges. Violation entails a fine not exceeding \$200 or imprisonment not exceeding three months or both.

Section 21 says if supervisors or persons employed to work on roads, highways or bridges willfully violate the act or willfully neglect or refuse to carry out its provisions, they shall be fined not exceeding \$200.

Section 22 imposes on supervisors all the duties imposed by existing laws on supervisors of roads, bridges and highways and makes them subject to the same responsibilities, except where consistent with the act itself.

Section 23 repeals acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the bill's provisions.

The Tax Bill.

A prolonged session of the Senate Finance Committee was held on Tuesday to consider the Granger tax bill. The friends of the bill through Senator Brown made several important changes in the bill. By these changes the following property in the ownership or possession of each taxable person is put into class 4 and therefore is not taxable. Horses and cattle under the age of one year, sheep and swine under the age of one year, wearing apparel, household furniture, musical instruments under \$100 in value, tools, implements, instruments and books used for pursuing a trade or calling and the unsold products of agriculture, gardens or manufactures at place of production.

Section 21, requiring printed lists of all taxables to be printed and distributed was stricken out and the present method of giving assessment notices allowed to stand. The portion of section ten containing what is known as "the spy feature," encouraging complaints was stricken out. All these corrections were made at the forenoon meeting and no objections were presented.

At the afternoon meeting the opponents of the bill showed their animosity very plainly. What is known as the Boyer bill, which gives, as Senator Brown puts it, "a crumb from the rich man's table," was considered and Senator Porter moved its substitution in place of the bill advocated by the Grangers. Senator Brown vigorously opposed this but without avail.

Accordingly the Boyer bill will be reported to the Senate. The friends of the Granger bill are not willing to accept this, declaring it to be in all its important points antagonistic to the principles of the House bill.

The House at Work.

The House recommitted the Congressional Apportionment bill to the Committee on Congressional Apportionment.

The Lytle Insurance bill passed second reading and calendar of bills on first reading was cleared.

The House effectually disposed of the Senate bill introduced by Senator Beck to issue liquor licenses on the basis of population, one license for every 700 people in cities of the first, second, and third class, one for every 600 in other cities, and no less than two in boroughs with one for every 500 or fraction of 500 people. It was alleged that the bill was prepared out of spite, and the charge was made that a hotel keeper who was refused a license was at the back of it. At any rate the House, after hearing arguments and wasting a great deal of time, indefinitely postponed its further consideration by a vote of 77 yeas to 55 nays. Quigley, of Philadelphia, was the chief opponent of the bill.

The supporters of the Granger tax bill have abandoned all hope of seeing it pass the Legislature in anything like its present shape. Even Representative Taggart, who introduced it, has become convinced that it could not be enforced without great friction, because of the large amount of labor that would be necessary on the part of manufacturing establishments to meet its requirements.

The statement of the representative of a Pittsburg manufacturing firm that the labor of sixty-six men would be employed six days to prepare the report that would have to be made under the proposed legislation stunned Mr. Taggart and from that time forward he has favored a modification that would relieve the bill of this odious feature. He is also willing to have other amendments incorporated which the discussion of the measure have shown are necessary to prevent from being too radical a departure from the present system of taxation.

The frequency with which banks are going under in the last six months is making people think those institutions are not just the safest places to hide cash.

It is said Gen. Hastings will not be a candidate for State Chairman, but will seek the Presidency of the State League of Clubs.

Dancing is a Sin.

Rev. J. W. Smith, of Westly Union church, Harrisburg has created much excitement among his congregation by preaching a sermon denouncing dancing and dancing.

He said: "I regret to announce that the past week has been one of worldly pleasure among several church members. They have gone to the dance floor twice within the week, and shuffled their feet to the sound of music. While church members are boncing jumping, and swinging on the dance floor, the sinners are laughing derisively, and exclaiming, 'look at the church members dancing.'"

"I wish to say emphatically, that while I am pastor of this church, I will get rid of these church dancers, or else you will get rid of me. If nothing happens, the Bishop will send me back another year to do business at the old stand. I have stood in this pulpit and frequently told these dancers that the Methodist church forbids it. Some of you have defied me, and now I will exercise the law to its fullest extent."

"Those who danced can either hand me their resignation as members or make a public confession before this congregation of their wrong, with agreement not to do so again, or else stand church trial." At the conclusion of the sermon several came forward and made proper acknowledgement.

The *Indiana (Pa.) Gazette* sent a circular of inquiry to the commissioners of all the counties in the State, except Allegheny and Philadelphia, asking for information concerning methods of maintaining the indigent poor. The purpose of the letter was to ascertain the least expensive system of pauper maintenance. The replies show that there are two systems in general use in the State, the "overseer," and the "county home" plans. The majority of the commissioners favor the county home, or almshouse, system, as it seems to be the cheapest and most convenient way of taking care of the poor. Some cling to the overseer method but admit that it is the most expensive, and at the same time not as satisfactory as the other system. Nearly all the counties in the western end of the State have adopted the county home plan. The other system is in use in many of the Eastern and older counties. Some county homes are self-supporting; others are nearly so, while others fall behind every year; but the people of all those counties prefer that system. The information supplied by the commissioners of the counties having the overseer system is very meager, but sufficient to indicate that it is neither the cheapest nor the best method. Indiana is one of these counties.

Both grain and stocks fell last week says the *Philadelphia Press*. This came in response to a reaction upon the crop prospect, both in fact and in sentiment.

The cotton crop is full a quarter late. A large crop, still less one equal to last year, while still possible. The fruit crop is injured. How much is not clear; but injured it is. Spring wheat has lost a week or so of Spring, and is by that much brought nearer Fall frosts. French tariff changes have improved our position abroad German tariff changes have given Hungarian grain supplies an advantage over our own. The same may be done for Russian grain by a Russo-German commercial treaty.

As we have all along predicted was certain to be the case, May has come and the world's grain supplies are larger than a year ago. The United States, and the Canada's East of the Rockies, are equal to last year. So are Pacific coast supplies. European supplies, including English, ashore and afloat, are 17,700,000 larger than last year. The total supply is larger than last year or the year before.

Again a rapid speculative rise in this country has given foreign supplies their opportunity in Europe. Wheat in New York, Saturday, was just where it was March 7. Having risen about 12 cents a bushel in seven weeks, it lost this advance in two. Meanwhile, the large exports of our meat products in the first eight months of the year have suddenly advanced the price of meats to the retail consumer. Last year, and in many years, new mess pork rises 30 to 40 per cent. from February to May, having advanced this year from \$10.50, March 6, to \$13.50, May 7. But this rise is not generally accompanied by an increase in the current supply of fresh meats.

Cereals and meats together, the increase in the cost of living has been considerable.

Woodland Coal.

Two car loads Woodland coal just received at Kurtz & Son's mill.

New clothing, new hats, new furnishing goods, everything new for the coming season is now opened and ready for your inspection at the Philad. Branch, Bellefonte.

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Two more Philadelphia banks have gone to smash the Spring Garden National and the Penn Trust Company.

The news of the suspension spread through the city like wild-fire, and it was not long before the frightened depositors began to gather around the bank building at Twelfth street and Spring Garden avenue. On the stock exchange the brokers were very much excited, and while many of them were prepared for it they did not expect the comptroller to act so quickly. Scarcely had the announcement of the failure of the Spring Garden bank been made before there was a rumor afloat that the Penn Safe and Trust Deposit Company, also located at Twelfth and Spring Garden streets, had also suspended payment.

It isn't every spendthrift who has a rich mother behind him who occasionally liquidates his debts. But that is the for tune of the prince of Wales, who, in spite of the fact that he is over fifty years of age and has an annual income of \$550,000, has managed to accumulate debts amounting to \$2,000,000, which his frugal mamma was obliged to pay to save the heir to the throne from open disgrace. Albert Edward is getting old enough to settle down into respectable habits of life, and unless he does so soon it is possible that the British people will abolish the monarchy at the death of the queen and inaugurate the republic in name as they have long had it in fact. The royal family is merely an expensive luxury.

Married.

On Thursday evening of last week, Mr. Harry Keller, Esq., and Miss Nannie Orris, daughter of Hon. J. H. Orris, were married at the residence of the bride's parents at Bellefonte.

Shut Down.

Monday Mann's Axe factory at Arxman closed for the summer season. The works have been in operation for some time and have turned out many axes. Many men are thrown out of employment.

Returned Home.

Ev-Governor Curtin, who has been spending the winter at St. Augustine, Fla., has returned to his home in Bellefonte, and is said to be looking exceedingly well.

Additional Locals.

—Roads are very dusty now and a good rain is wished for by all.

—Lock Haven is booming up a 4th of July celebration to eclipse any heres before.

—Murray's soda fountain has been started up and you can now regale yourself with that cooling beverage.

—The grip which prevailed with much severity through this section has let up a little and not many new victims are reported. Many are still not able to be about and are confined within.

—Reader if you send us the name of one new subscriber, with cash for six months we will send you *The American Farmer* one year free for your trouble.

—Sufficient time having elapsed to ascertain whether the cold snap of Monday night and Tuesday has damaged the fruit and cherry crops, experienced growers now report that little harm has been done, and that there is still promise of a big peach crop and a good yield of strawberries in this county.

—Jacob Carpenter, a prominent merchant of Bard, Bedford county, met with a very remarkable accident Monday. Mr. Carpenter was chasing some cattle on his farm which adjoins his store. He was running with his hat pulled down over his eyes, when he came in contact with a scantling which was protruding over a wagon load of lumber. The sharp point of the scantling struck him in the stomach, producing internal injuries, which caused his death.

—Next week the bark-peeling season will be opened in the hemlock country in the neighborhood around about the town of DuBois. Prices for peeling will be better this year than last. This season peelers will get \$1.60 to \$1.75 a cord. An expert peeler can take off two cords of bark a day. From now until the middle of July the hemlock woods will be busy. The Allegheny Lumber Company has contracted to peel 22,000 cords of bark this summer.

—A sensible lady of Jefferson county, Pa., is said to have effectually cured her fifteen-year-old boy of smoking cigarettes, by a method which she describes as the laying on of hands. Her plan is very simple. She held a slipper in one hand and the boy in the other and brought them violently together several times: The result was more satisfactory to all parties concerned than a prosecution under an anti-cigarette law could possibly have been. Suppose some Centre county mothers try a laying on of hands—or slippers.